



REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed December 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 8-24 and 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,675) in view of Hogan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,099).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The Interview Conducted June 6, 2005

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Beatriz Prieto and Benjamin A. Ailes for the courtesies extended during the interview held February 2, 2006, with Applicants' representative. During the interview, Applicants' representative explained that the rejections set forth in Final Office Action lack support in Pal et al. and Hogan et al., whether taken alone or in combination. As requested by the Examiners, Applicants submit the following remarks to expand upon the arguments presented in the interview.

Claims 8, 22 and 26

With respect to claims 8, 22 and 26, the Examiner admits that Pal et al. fails to disclose "a lookup service, the lookup service comprising at least one service item containing one of (a) a stub or (b) a serialized object for use in accessing at least one of the services." See *Final Office Action (December 9, 2005)*, p. 3, ll. 2-4. In an attempt to cure these deficiencies, the Examiner asserts that

it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the computer networking and database art at the time of applicant's invention that the claimed invention differ[s] from the teachings of Pal only by a degree. It is well known to

one of ordinary skill in the art that the lookup service referred to in the claims is an obvious variation of the database [of Pal] because databases are used for lookup services or for query services.

Id., p. 3, ll. 4-9; *see also id.*, p. 4, ll. 8-14.

The Examiner further cites Hogan et al. as an example of “a database used for lookup services.” *Id.*, p. 3, ll. 9-12 (citing Hogan et al., Abstract and col. 8, ll. 49-58); *see also id.*, p. 4, ll. 12-18. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that Hogan et al. teaches a lookup service.

As explained in the Response filed October 7, 2003, Applicants have provided a section of the specification entitled “The Lookup Service Definition,” explaining that a lookup service is a central registry of service items representing services available within, for example, a Djinn. Specification, p. 12, l. 19, through p. 13, l. 9. The term “lookup service” in Applicants’ claims must be interpreted in light of the definition provided in Applicants’ specification. M.P.E.P. § 2111.01 (8th Ed., Rev. 2, May 2004).

Contrary to the Examiner’s assertions, the “databases” of Hogan et al. are nowhere described as “a lookup service” or “a lookup service with associated services.” Consequently, Hogan et al. fails to support the Examiner’s assertion that a lookup service “is an obvious variation of the database” of Pal et al. *Id.*, p. 3, ll. 6-9.

Moreover, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must show some suggestion or motivation in the reference or in the general knowledge of those skilled in the art to modify the reference. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.01 (8th Ed. Rev. 2, May 2004). Thus, even if the claimed lookup service is a modification of a database, the Examiner has shown no suggestion or motivation to modify the database

management systems of Pal et al. and Hogan et al. to produce “a lookup service with associated services,” as recited in claims 8 and 26.

Moreover, the Examiner also cites Hogan et al. as teaching “the use of *products and features* that assist users in accessing services” (*Id.*, p. 3, ll. 9-12 (emphasis added) (citing Hogan et al., col. 3, ll. 21-29)), which the Examiner “deem[s to be] functionally equivalent to Applicant’s ‘stub.’” *Final Office Action*, p. 5, ll. 4-6 (emphasis added). Applicants again disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of Hogan et al.

The cited portion of Hogan et al. reads, in its entirety, as follows:

The present invention is directed to a call processing system and method which provides a wide range of enhanced calling *products and features* to subscribers. The subscribers can include individual users as well as customers who, in turn, provide telephone service to their own clients (also called “users”). These customers can include telephone carriers whose clients are subscribers of the carriers’ network and can also include other types of businesses.

Hogan et al., col. 3, ll. 21-29 (emphasis added). Nowhere does this passage teach, or even suggest, a “stub ... for use in accessing at least one of the services” of a lookup service, as recited in claims 8, 22 and 26.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the Examiner’s rejections of claims 8, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) lack support in Pal et al. and Hogan et al., whether taken singly or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 9-11 and 27-29

Claims 9-11 and 27-29 depend from one of claims 8 and 26. As explained, the Examiner's rejection of claims 8 and 26 lacks support in Pal et al. and Hogan et al., whether taken alone or in any combination. Therefore, the rejections of claims 9-11 and 27-29 likewise lack support in Pal et al. and Hogan et al. for at least the same reasons given above with respect to independent claims 8 and 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 9-11 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37

With respect to claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37, the Examiner again relies on the combination of Pal et al. and Hogan et al. as teaching "a lookup service." *Final Office Action* (December 9, 2005), p. 4, ll. 8-10. However, as explained above in relation to claims 8, 22 and 26, the "databases" of Hogan et al. are nowhere described as "a lookup service." Consequently, Hogan et al. fails to support the Examiner's assertion that a lookup service "is an obvious variation of the database" of Pal et al. *Id.*, p. 3, ll. 6-9.

In addition, the Examiner asserts that Pal et al. discloses "a database data processing system . . . having the function to receive a request to be notified when the database is updated, [and] . . . generating a notification when it is determined that the database is updated." *Final Office Action*, p. 4, ll. 1-4 (citing Pal et al., col. 5, ll. 17-22). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Pal et al.

The Examiner alleges that the “callback” message discussed in the cited passages of Pal et al. are “functionally equivalent” to the “request to be notified when the lookup service is updated.” See *Final Office Action*, p. 5, ll. 7-12. However, in Pal et al., when the Database Management System (DBMS) 206 grants a writelock to one client (e.g., client 2 in FIG. 2), so that this client may update a database object X,

the navigational agent 208 accesses the directory structure 210 to determine all clients that currently have object X allocated. The navigational agent 208 then sends a callback message to each of these clients other than the client requesting the writelock (e.g., client 1) to notify them that object X will *soon* become out of date. If client 1 determines that object X is not in use, client 1 immediately sends back a response. After sending the response, client 1 discards object X since it *will be* updated and object X *will become* out of date.

At some point while client 1 is responding to the callback message, client 2 modifies a portion of object X and sends an update request to the navigational agent 208. *This update request may be a delayed update request that requests an update at a future time.* The navigational agent 208 passes the update request to the DBMS 206. *Subsequently*, client 2 issues a commit statement to commit the update and the navigational agent 208 delays passing the commit statement to the DBMS 206 until it has received a response to all outstanding callback messages. *After receiving a response to all callback messages*, the navigational agent 208 can guarantee that all transactions involving object X have completed and thus the update to object X can be committed and concurrency problems involving object X are avoided.

Pal et al., col. 6, l. 61, through col. 7, l. 24 (emphasis added).

Thus, the callback message and reply of Pal et al. is a mechanism for the navigational agent 208 to determine whether any of the clients to whom the database object X is allocated are “currently using the object as part of a transaction,” and if so,

prevent updating of the object. See *Id.*, col. 5, ll. 33-37. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Pal et al. fails to disclose any subsequent notification when the database is updated via the commit statement.

For at least these reasons, neither Pal et al. nor Hogan et al., nor their combination, supports the Examiner's rejection of claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 13-18, 20, 21, 24, 31-36, 38 and 39

Claims 13-18, 20, 21, 24, 31-36, 38 and 39 depend from one of claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37. As explained, the rejections of claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37 are unsupported by Pal et al. and Hogan et al., whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, the rejections of claims 13-18, 20, 21, 24, 31-36, 38 and 39 are also unsupported by Pal et al. and Hogan et al. for at least the same reasons as those given above with respect to claims 12, 19, 23, 30 and 37. In addition, neither Pal et al., nor Hogan et al., whether taken singly or combined, teaches the additional recitations of these dependent claims.

For example, claims 16 and 34 each recite, *inter alia*, "receiving [a] request to be notified when a new service is associated with the lookup service, . . . [and] determining when a new service is associated with the lookup service." *Claim 16*, ll. 3-5; *Claim 34*, ll. 3-5. Similarly, claims 17 and 35 each recite, "receiving [a] request to be notified when one of the associated services is disassociated with the lookup service, . . . [and] determining when one service is disassociated with the lookup service." *Claim 17*,

ll. 3-6; *Claim 35*, ll. 3-6. And claims 18 and 36 each recite, “receiving [a] request to be notified when attributes of at least one of the associated services is updated, . . . [and] determining when the attributes of at least one of the associated services is updated.” *Claim 18*, ll. 3-6; *Claim 36*, ll. 3-6.

The Examiner asserts that “these claims are obvious variations of callback functions that would be used when combining *Pal et al.* and *Hogan et al.*” *Final Office Action*, p. 5, l. 22, through p. 6, l. 2. However, Applicants can find no discussion of such “variations” in either *Pal et al.* or *Hogan et al.*. Rather, as explained above with respect to claims 12, 19, 23, 20 and 37, the callback message and reply of *Pal et al.* is a mechanism for the navigational agent 208 prevent updating of a database object if the object is currently is use by any of the clients to whom it is allocated. See *Pal et al.*, col. 5, ll. 33-37. There is no teaching in *Pal et al.* of any determination of the *type* of update that will be performed.

For at least these additional reasons, the Examiner’s rejections of claims 16-18 and 34-36 lack support in *Pal et al.* or *Hogan et al.*, whether these references are taken alone or combined. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 16-18 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn or the claims allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants note that the Final Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is discussed herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any such statement or characterization.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

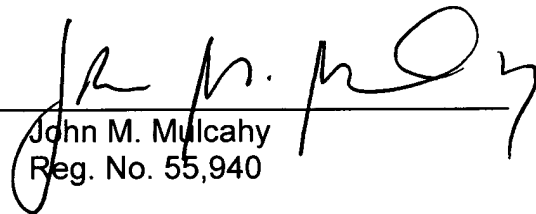
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 9, 2006

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